

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended). A gas friction pump, comprising stationary pump-active components (14) and rotatable pump-active components (15) secured on a rotatable rotor shaft (4), wherein the rotor shaft is supported with a bearing (5) at the high-vacuum-side end and a bearing arrangement at a fore-vacuum side end, characterized in that the high-vacuum side bearing is formed as a conventional bearing, and the fore-vacuum side bearing arrangement contains at least one gas bearing, and in that at least one of the bearings is formed as a module.

2-10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously presented). A gas friction pump according to claim 1, characterized in that the high-vacuum side bearing is formed as a permanent magnet bearing.

12. (New). A gas friction pump, comprising stationary pump-active components (14) and rotatable pump-active components (15) secured on a rotatable rotor shaft (4), wherein the rotor shaft is supported with a bearing (5) at the high-vacuum-side end and a bearing arrangement at a fore-vacuum side end, characterized in that the high-vacuum side bearing is formed as a conventional bearing, the fore-vacuum side bearing arrangement contains a radial bearing (6) for supporting the shaft radially and an axial bearing (7) for supporting the shaft

axially; and in that at least one of the radial bearing and the axial bearing is formed as a gas bearing, and the radial bearing and the axial bearing are combined in a module.

13. (New). A gas friction pump according to claim 12, characterized in that it is the radial bearing that is formed as the gas bearing.

14. (New). A gas friction pump according to claim 12, characterized in that it is the axial bearing that is formed as the gas bearing.

15. (New). A gas friction pump according to claim 12, characterized in that both the radial bearing and the axial bearing are formed as gas bearings.

16. (New). A gas friction pump according to claim 12, further comprising a drive (9) for rotating the rotor, characterized in that the drive (9) is formed as a module, and in that at least one of the modules is arranged and secured in a cylindrically formed portion (11) of the pump housing.

17. (New). A gas friction pump according to claim 12, characterized in that between the gas bearing and a low-pressure side, sealing means (10) is provided.

18. (New). A gas friction pump, comprising stationary pump-active components (14) and rotatable pump-active components (15) secured on a

rotatable rotor shaft (4); and a drive (9) for rotating the rotor shaft, wherein the rotor shaft is supported with a bearing (5) at the high-vacuum-side end and a bearing arrangement at a fore-vacuum side end, characterized in that the high-vacuum side bearing is formed as a conventional bearing, the fore-vacuum side bearing arrangement contains a radial bearing (6) for supporting the shaft radially and an axial bearing (7) for supporting the shaft axially; and in that at least one of the radial bearing and the axial bearing is formed as a gas bearing, and the at least one of the radial and axial bearings (6, 7) and the drive (9) are combined in a module.